(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) whether nodal agencies, namely, Mumbai Port Trust and Ennore Port Limited have prepared detailed project reports on the setting up of international size shipyards; and

(d) if so, the time by when the work on setting up of shipyard would be started?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Upon receipt of the recommendations of the Committee set up under the Chairmanship of Chairman, Indian Ports Association, which had recommended Mundra and Pipavav in Gujarat as the suitable locations for setting up of international size shipyard, Maritime States were also requested by this Ministry to identify suitable location for setting up of international size shipyards, one each on the East Coast and West Coast of India respectively in response to which Government of Gujarat has proposed a few stretches such as Salaya, Jodiya, Mundra, Chanch and Pipavav and Tuna.

(c) and (d) The nodal agencies *viz*. Ennore Port Limited and Mumbai Port Trust have been authorized to appoint Consultants with clear terms of reference who *inter alia*, would identify 3 or 4 alternative sites each for setting up of shipyard on West Coast and East Coast of India respectively and also suggest optimal locations with detailed justification. The process for appointment of Consultants has been initiated by the nodal agencies. As such, no definite time frame can be set for finalization of location of the projects.

NHDP Works in Gujarat

741. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether repair/resurfacing works of various roads under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) in Gujarat have been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the planning and time frame fixed by NHAI for repairs/resurfacing of roads?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (c) Wherever 4/6 laning works under NHDP are under implementation, to keep the existing roads in traffic worthy condition, the maintenance of existing roads are carried out by the Contractor/Concessionaire as part of their obligations under contract/concession agreement, In case of sections entrusted to NHAI where, 4/6 laning have not yet started, the maintenance of existing roads are being carried out by NHAI directly or through State PWDs with funds provided by NHAI.

After completion of 4/6 laning works, the comprehensive maintenance are regularly carried out. Under this apart from routine and periodic operation and maintenance of highways, engineering improvement as required for better road safety are also taken up as and when necessary.

There were damages due to recent monsoon. However, roads have been maintained in traffic worthy condition during monsoon with funds allocated for maintenance and repair.

CRF rules

†742.DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether the Union Government has notified any new rules for CRF (State Roads) in 2007;

(b) whether issues regarding feasibility of these rules which causes delay in implementation of projects have been raised by the States;

(c) whether necessary steps are being taken by Government for releasing the amount in time; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. One-third of the annual accrual of CRF is placed at the disposal of each State/UT as reserve for utilization against sanctioned works. This reserve fund is replenished by subsequent releases on submission of utilization certificates by concerned States/UTs.

Setting up of welfare fund

743. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to set a welfare fund for overseas stranded workers in gulf countries;

(b) the number of stranded workers in gulf countries separately;

(c) the number of stranded workers require immediate rehabilitation, country-wise; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the semi skilled and unskilled workers contribute a whopping $12 billion annually in remittance to India?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) A proposal to establish an 'Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF)' to provide funding support to the Indian Missions in the Emigration Clearance Required (ECR) Countries for the welfare of the workers who are in distress is under consideration of the Government.

(b) and (c) There is no data available regarding the number of stranded workers at a given time in various gulf countries. However, whenever overseas Indian workers are stranded the Missions provide necessary assistance to such workers, including for their deportation back to India.

(d) India is the highest recipient of remittances from abroad which was estimated at over US $27 billion in 2007. About 40% of this is the estimated remittances received from overseas Indian workers including from semi-skilled and unskilled workers in the gulf.

Widening of NHs in Orissa

744. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has sanctioned funds for road widening for the busiest NH-215 in Orissa;